Smoking in trains and at railway stations

1433. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to ban smoking in trains, stations, railway offices, etc. in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the details of such ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court in India, smoking has been prohibited in headquarters of the Railways, all office buildings of the railways, railway stations, railway platforms and other premises where there are railway establishments and in the coaches of the trains.

Spot inspection of railway bookstalls

1434. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways *vide* para No. 2 part (1) to part-2 (iii) of their letter No. 92/TG. III /46426/Pt dated 13th September 1994, had directed the Zonal Railways to conduct spot inspections of each bookstall, for assessing the actual sales; and

(b) if so, the date-wise datails of the inspections conducted for the purpose by each Zonal Ralway, Division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) In terms of sub-paras 2(i) to 2(iii) of the Ministry of Railways' letter No.92/TG.III-464/26/Pt dated 13.09.1994 the Zonal Railways (except Southern Railway) were advised to conduct on-the-spot inspections of the bookstalls of M/s A. H. Wheeler & Co. with a view to ensure that the amount of royalty due from them is paid by them to the railways.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Unbundling of railways

1435. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report ASSOCHEM has recommended that there is a need for unbundling the Indian Railways by associating the private sector and retaining the railway transport system;